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OLC CHRONO

Destruction of Doc.

OLC 78-1669
19 April 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Professor G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Staff Director, House Select Committee on Assassinations, on Lifting the Moratorium on Destruction of CIA Documents

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1. A meeting was held in my office this morning from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. with Professor G. Robert Blakey; [redacted] of the Records Management Staff; [redacted] OGC, and myself to discuss Chairman Louis Stokes' (D., Ohio) reaction to the Agency's resumption of normal destruction of documents.

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2. [redacted] explained the dilemma that the Agency faces by the ever increasing accumulation of documents and urged that the Committee approve the resumption of normal destruction. He emphasized that the material scheduled for destruction is clearly routine and in no way related to the Committee's investigation. [redacted] pointed out that the Archivist has approved destruction and we are now in violation of the law. Professor Blakey said he clearly recognized the Agency's plight, however, any resumption of destruction during the conduct of the HSCA investigation would subject the Committee to extreme criticism. He recognized that this was clearly a political issue and doubted that the Committee would alter its position that the moratorium remain in effect. He will contact the Archivist and discuss the legal problems involved and will then get back to us. It was pointed out to Professor Blakey that if the legal obligation remains, it will be necessary for the DDA to raise this entire issue with the Director for his final decision.

3. During our discussion, it was pointed out to Professor Blakey that all other Intelligence Community agencies, including the FBI, have lifted the moratorium and resumed destruction. He expressed concern since he recently learned that the Department of Defense had destroyed their file on Lee Harvey Oswald in San Antonio, Texas. He added that he would be contacting the FBI and the other Intelligence Community agencies on the whole question of destruction prompted by our meeting.

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[redacted]
Acting Chief,
Coordination and Review Staff

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